WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

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1. A composition of matter normally subject to oxidative deterioration comprising an edible organic substance normally subject to oxidative deterioration and a minor amount effective as an antioxidant of one or more compounds selected from the group consisting of (i) 3-arylbenzofuranones in the present invention are compounds of the formula I

$$\begin{bmatrix} & & & & & & \\ & & & & \\ & & & & \\ & & & & \\ & & & & \\ & & & & \\ & & \\ & & & \\ & & \\ & & & \\ & & \\ & & & \\ & & \\ & & & \\ & & & \\ &$$

in which, if n is 1,

 R_1 is unsubstituted or C_1 - C_4 alkyl-, C_1 - C_4 alkoxy-, C_1 - C_4 alkylthio-, hydroxyl-, halo-, amino-, C_1 - C_4 alkylamino-, phenylamino- or di(C_1 - C_4 alkyl)amino-substituted naphthyl, phenanthryl, anthryl, 5,6,7,8-tetrahydro-1-naphthyl, thienyl, benzo[b]thienyl, naphtho[2,3-b]thienyl, thianthrenyl, dibenzofuryl, chromenyl, xanthenyl, phenoxathiinyl, pyrrolyl, imidazolyl, pyrazolyl, pyrazinyl, pyrimidinyl, pyridazinyl, indolizinyl, isoindolyl, indolyl, indazolyl, purinyl, quinolizinyl, isoquinolyl, quinolyl, phthalazinyl, naphthyridinyl, quinoxalinyl, quinazolinyl, cinnolinyl, pteridinyl, carbazolyl, β -carbolinyl, phenanthridinyl, acridinyl, perimidinyl, phenanthrolinyl, phenazinyl, isothiazolyl, phenothiazinyl, isoxazolyl, furazanyl, biphenyl, terphenyl, fluorenyl or phenoxazinyl, or R_1 is a radical of the formula II

$$\begin{array}{c}
R_9 \\
R_7
\end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{c}
R_{10} \\
R_{11}
\end{array}$$
(II)

and

20 if n is 2,

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 R_1 is unsubstituted or C_1 - C_4 alkyl- or hydroxy-substituted phenylene or naphthylene; or is - R_{12} -X- R_{13} -,

 R_2 , R_3 , R_4 and R_5 independently of one another are hydrogen, chlorine, hydroxyl, C_1 - C_{25} alkyl, C_7 - C_9 phenylalkyl, unsubstituted or C_1 - C_4 alkyl-substituted phenyl; unsubstituted or C_1 - C_4 alkyl-substituted C_5 - C_8 cycloalkyl; C_1 - C_{18} alkoxy, C_1 - C_{18} alkylthio, C_1 - C_4 alkylamino, di(C_1 -

C4alkyl)amino, C1-C25alkanoyloxy, C1-C25alkanoylamino, C3-C25alkenoyloxy,

 C_3 - C_{25} alkanoyloxy which is interrupted by oxygen, sulfur or N- R_{14} ; C_6 - C_9 cycloalkyl-

carbonyloxy, benzoyloxy or C_1 - C_{12} alkyl-substituted benzoyloxy; or else the radicals R_2 and R_3 or the radicals R_3 and R_4 or the radicals R_4 and R_5 , together with the carbon atoms to which they are attached, form a benzo ring, R_4 is additionally -(CH_2)_p- COR_{15} or -(CH_2)_qOH or, if R_3 , R_5 and R_6 are hydrogen, R_4 is additionally a radical of the formula III

$$R_{2} \xrightarrow{O} H$$

$$R_{16} \xrightarrow{C} -R_{17}$$
(III)

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in which R_1 is defined as indicated above for n=1, R_0 is hydrogen or a radical of the formula IV

$$R_{2}$$
 R_{3}
 R_{5}
 R_{5}
 R_{5}
 R_{5}
 R_{5}

where R_4 is not a radical of the formula III and R_1 is defined as indicated above for n = 1, R_7 , R_8 , R_9 , R_{10} and R_{11} independently of one another are hydrogen, halogen, hydroxyl,

 $C_{1}\text{-}C_{25}\text{alkyl, }C_{2}\text{-}C_{25}\text{alkyl interrupted by oxygen, sulfur or } N - R_{14} \text{ ; } C_{1}\text{-}C_{25}\text{alkoxy, }$

 C_2 - C_{25} alkoxy interrupted by oxygen, sulfur or $N-R_{14}$; C_1 - C_{25} alkylthio, C_3 - C_{25} alkenyl, C_3 -

15 C₂₅alkenyloxy, C₃-C₂₅alkynyl, C₃-C₂₅alkynyloxy, C₇-C₉phenylalkyl, C₇-C₉phenylalkoxy, unsubstituted or C₁-C₄alkyl-substituted phenyl; unsubstituted or C₁-C₄alkyl-substituted phenoxy; unsubstituted or C₁-C₄alkyl-substituted C₅-C₈cycloalkyl; unsubstituted or C₁-C₄alkyl-substituted C₅-C₈cycloalkoxy; C₁-C₄alkylamino, di(C₁-C₄alkyl)amino, C₁-C₂₅alkanoyl, C₃-

C₂₅alkanoyl interrupted by oxygen, sulfur or N-R₁₄; C₁-C₂₅alkanoyloxy, C₃-

 C_{25} alkanoyloxy interrupted by oxygen, sulfur or $N-R_{14}$; C_1-C_{25} alkanoylamino, C_3-C_{15}

C₂₅alkenoyl, C₃-C₂₅alkenoyl interrupted by oxygen, sulfur or N-R₁₄; C₃-C₂₅alkenoyloxy,

 C_3 - C_{25} alkenoyloxy interrupted by oxygen, sulfur or N- R_{14} ; C_6 - C_9 cycloalkylcarbonyl, C_8 -

5 C₉cycloalkylcarbonyloxy, benzoyl or C₁-C₁₂alkyl-substituted benzoyl; benzoyloxy or C₁-

else, in formula II, the radicals R_7 and R_8 or the radicals R_8 and R_{11} , together with the carbon atoms to which they are attached, form a benzo ring,

 R_{12} and R_{13} independently of one another are unsubstituted or C_1 - C_4 alkyl-substituted phenylene or naphthylene,

R₁₄ is hydrogen or C₁-C₈alkyl,

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$$R_{15}$$
 is hydroxyl, $\left[-0^{-\frac{1}{r}M^{r+}}\right]$, C_1 - C_{18} alkoxy or $-N$
 R_{25} ,

 R_{16} and R_{17} independently of one another are hydrogen, CF_3 , C_1 - C_{12} alkyl or phenyl, or R_{16} and R_{17} , together with the C atom to which they are attached, form a C_5 - C_8 cycloalkylidene ring which is unsubstituted or substituted from 1 to 3 times by C_1 - C_4 alkyl;

 R_{18} and R_{19} independently of one another are hydrogen, C_1 - C_4 alkyl or phenyl, R_{20} is hydrogen or C_1 - C_4 alkyl,

R₂₁ is hydrogen, unsubstituted or C₁-C₄alkyl-substituted phenyl; C₁-C₂₅alkyl, C₂-C₂₅alkyl

interrupted by oxygen, sulfur or N-R₁₄; C₇-C₉phenylalkyl which is unsubstituted or

substituted on the phenyl radical from 1 to 3 times by C₁-C₄alkyl; C₇-C₂₅phenylalkyl which is unsubstituted or substituted on the phenyl radical from 1 to 3 times by C₁-C₄alkyl and

interrupted by oxygen, sulfur or $N-R_{14}$, or else the radicals R_{20} and R_{21} , together with

the carbon atoms to which they are attached, form a C_5 - C_{12} cycloalkylene ring which is unsubstituted or substituted from 1 to 3 times by C_1 - C_4 alkyl;

R₂₂ is hydrogen or C₁-C₄alkyl,

5 R₂₃ is hydrogen, C₁-C₂₅alkanoyl, C₃-C₂₅alkanoyl, C₃-C₂₅alkanoyl interrupted by oxygen, sulfur

C₆-C₉cycloalkylcarbonyl, thenoyl, furoyl, benzoyl or C₁-C₁₂alkyl-substituted benzoyl;

10 R₂₄ and R₂₅ independently of one another are hydrogen or C₁-C₁₈alkyl,

R₂₆ is hydrogen or C₁-C₈alkyl,

R₂₇ is a direct bond, C₁-C₁₈alkylene, C₂-C₁₈alkylene interrupted by oxygen, sulfur or

C₅-C₈cycloalkylene, C₇-C₈bicycloalkylene, unsubstituted or C₁-C₄alkyl-substituted phenylene,

$$R_{28}$$
 is hydroxyl, $\left[-0^{-\frac{1}{r}M}^{r+}\right]$, C_1 - C_{18} alkoxy or $-N$
 R_{26} ,

$$R_{29}$$
 is oxygen, -NH- or $N - C - NH - R_{30}$,

R₃₀ is C₁-C₁₈alkyl or phenyl,

R₃₁ is hydrogen or C₁-C₁₈alkyl,

5 M is an r-valent metal cation,

X is a direct bond, oxygen, sulfur or -NR₃₁-,

n is 1 or 2,

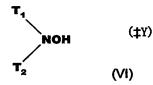
p is 0, 1 or 2,

q is 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6,

10 r is 1, 2 or 3, and

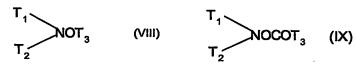
s is 0, 1 or 2;

(ii) a long chain N,N-dialkylhydroxylamine of formula (VI)



wherein T₁ and T₂ are independently straight or branched chain alkyl of 6 to 36 carbon atoms;

(iii) substituted hydroxylamines may be for example of the formula (VIII) or (IX)



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T₁ is straight or branched chain alkyl of 1 to 36 carbon atoms, cycloalkyl of 5 to 12 carbon atoms, aralkyl of 7 to 9 carbon atoms, or said aralkyl substituted by one or two alkyl of 1 to 12 carbon atoms or by one or two halogen atoms;

 T_2 is hydrogen, or independently has the same meaning as T_1 ; and

T₃ is allyl, straight or branched chain alkyl of 1 to 36 carbon atoms, cycloalkyl of 5 to 18 carbon atoms, cycloalkenyl of 5 to 18 carbon atoms or a straight or branched chain alkyl of 1 to 4 carbon atoms substituted by phenyl or by phenyl substituted by one or two alkyl groups of 1 to 4 carbon atoms or by 1 or 2 halogen atoms;

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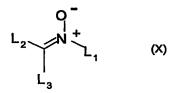
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(iv) nitrones of the formula (X)



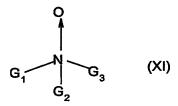
wherein

L₁ is straight or branched chain alkyl of 1 to 36 carbon atoms, cycloalkyl of 5 to 12 carbon atoms, aralkyl of 7 to 9 carbon atoms, or said aralkyl substituted by one or two alkyl of 1 to 12 carbon atoms or by one or two halogen atoms;

L₂ and L₃ are independently hydrogen, straight or branched chain alkyl of 1 to 36 carbon atoms, cycloalkyl of 5 to 12 carbon atoms, aralkyl of 7 to 9 carbon atoms, or said aralkyl substituted by one or two alkyl of 1 to 12 carbon atoms or by one or two halogen atoms;

or L_1 and L_2 together form a five- or six-membered ring including the nitrogen atom; and

(v) amine oxides are for example saturated tertiary amine oxides as represented by general formula (XI):



wherein

 G_1 and G_2 are independently a straight or branched chain alkyl of 6 to 36 carbon atoms, aryl of 6 to 12 carbon atoms, aralkyl of 7 to 36 carbon atoms, alkaryl of 5 to 36 carbon atoms, eycloalkyl of 5 to 36 carbon atoms, alkeycloalkyl of 6 to 36 carbon atoms or cycloalkylalkyl of 6 to 36 carbon atoms;

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 G_3 is a straight or branched chain alkyl of 1 to 36 carbon atoms, aryl of 6 to 12 carbon atoms, aralkyl of 7 to 36 carbon atoms, alkaryl of 7 to 36 carbon atoms, cycloalkyl of 5 to 36 carbon atoms, alkcycloalkyl of 6 to 36 carbon atoms or cycloalkylalkyl of 6 to 36 carbon atoms; with the proviso that at least one of G_1, G_2 and G_3 contains a b carbonhydrogen bond; and

wherein said aryl groups may be substituted by one to three halogen, alkyl of 1 to 8 carbon atoms, alkoxy of 1 to 8 carbon atoms or combinations thereof; and

wherein said alkyl, aralkyl, alkaryl, cycloalkyl, alkcycloalkyl and cycloalkylalkyl groups may be interrupted by one to sixteen -O-, -S-, -SO-, -SO₂-, -COO-, -CO-, -CO-, -NG₄-, -CONG₄- and -NG₄CO- groups, or wherein said alkyl, aralkyl, alkaryl, cycloalkyl, alkcycloalkyl and cycloalkylalkyl groups may be substituted by one to sixteen groups selected from -OG₄, -SG₄, -COOG₄, -OCOG₄, -COG₄, -N(G₄)₂, -CON(G₄)₂, -NG₄COG₄ and 5-and 6-membered rings containing the -C(CH₃)(CH₂R_x)NL(CH₂R_x)(CH₃)C- group or wherein said alkyl, aralkyl, alkaryl, cycloalkyl, alkcycloalkyl and cycloalkylalkyl groups are both interrupted and substituted by the groups mentioned above; and

wherein

 G_4 is independently hydrogen or alkyl of 1 to 8 carbon atoms; R_x is hydrogen or methyl;

L is hydrogen, hydroxy, C₁₋₃₀ straight or branched chain alkyl moiety, a -C(O)R moiety where R is a C₁₋₃₀ straight or branched chain alkyl group, or a -OR_y moiety; and R_y is C₁₋₃₀ straight or branched chain alkyl, C₂-C₃₀ alkenyl, C₂-C₃₀ alkynyl, C₅-C₁₂ cycloalkyl, C₆-C₁₀ bicycloalkyl, C₅-C₈ cycloalkenyl, C₆-C₁₀ aryl, C₇-C₉ aralkyl, C₇-C₉ aralkyl substituted by alkyl or aryl, or -CO(D), where D is C₁-C₁₈ alkyl, C₁-C₁₈ alkoxy, phenyl, phenyl substituted by hydroxy, alkyl or alkoxy, or amino or amino mono- or di-substituted by alkyl or phenyl.

2. The composition of claim 1 wherein the benzofuranone is at least one compound of formula I wherein n=1, R_1 is phenyl which is unsubstituted or substituted in para-position by C_1 - C_1 8 alkylthio or di(C_1 - C_4 alkyl)amino; mono- to penta-substituted alkyphenyl containing together a total of at most 18 carbon atoms in the 1 to 5 alkyl substituents; naphthyl, biphenyl, terphenyl, phenanthryl, anthryl, fluorenyl, carbazolyl, thienyl, pyrrolyl, phenothizinyl or 5,6,7,8-tetrahydronaphthyl, each of which is unsubstituted or substituted by C_1 - C_4 alkyl, C_1 - C_4 alkylthio, hydroxy or amino.

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3. The composition of claim 1 wherein the benzofuranone is a compound of formula I wherein n is 2, R_1 is - R_{12} -X- R_{13} -, R_{12} and R_{13} are phenylene, X is oxygen or - NR_{31} -, and R_{31} is C_1 - C_4 alkyl.

4. The composition of claim 1 wherein the benzofuranone is at least one compound selected from the group consisting of 3-[4-(2-acetoxyethoxy)phenyl]-5,7-di-tert-butyl-benzofuran-2-one; 5,7-di-tert-butyl-3-[4-(2-stearoyloxyethoxy)phenyl]benzofuran-2-one; 3,3'-bis[5,7-di-tert-butyl-3-(4-[2-hydroxyethoxy]phenyl)benzofuran-2-one]; 5,7-di-tert-butyl-3-(4-ethoxyphenyl)benzofuran-2-one; 3-(4-acetoxy-3,5-dimethylphenyl)-5,7-di-tert-butyl-benzofuran-2-one; 5,7-di-tert-butyl-3-phenylbenzofuran-2-one; 5,7-di-tert-butyl-3-(3,4-dimethylphenyl)-benzofuran-2-one; 5,7-di-tert-butyl-3-(2,3-dimethylphenyl)benzofuran-2-one.

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- 5. The compositions of claim 1 wherein the long chain hydroxylamine is a compound of the formula (VI) wherein T₁ and T₂ are independently selected from a straight or branched chain alkyl of 12-36 carbon atoms.
 - 6. The composition of claim 1 wherein the long chain hydroxylamine is a compound of the formula (VI) wherein T_1 and T_2 are independently selected from a straight or branched chain alkyl of 16-18 carbon atoms.
 - 7. The composition of claim 1 wherein the long chain hydroxylamine is a compound of formula (VI) wherein T_1 and T_2 are the same and are a straight chain alkyl of 18 carbon atoms.
 - 8. The composition of claim 1 wherein the substituted hydroxylamine is at least one comopound selected from O-allyl-N,N-dioctadecylhydroxylamine and O-n-propyl-N,N-dioctadecylhydroxylamine or N,N-di(hydrogenated tallow)acetoxylamine.
- 9. The composition of claim 1 wherein the nitrone is at least one compound selected from the group consisting of N-benzyl-α-phenylnitrone, N-ethyl-α-methylnitrone, N-octyl-α-heptylnitrone, N-lauryl-α-undecylnitrone, N-tetradecyl-α-tridcylnitrone, N-hexadecyl-α-pentadecylnitrone, N-octadecyl-α-heptadecylnitrone, N-hexadecyl-α-heptadecylnitrone, N-octadecyl-α-neptadecylnitrone, N-octadecyl-α-heptadecylnitrone, N-octadecyl-α-heptadecyl-α-heptadecyl-α-heptadecylnitrone, N-octadecyl-α-heptadecylnitrone, N-octadecyl-α-heptadecylnitrone, N-octadecyl-α-heptadecylnitrone, N-octadecyl-α-heptadecylnitrone, N-octadecyl-α-heptadecyl-α-heptadecyl-α-heptadecyl-α-heptadecyl-α-heptadecyl-α-heptadecyl

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hexadecylnitrone, N-methyl-α-heptadecylnitrone and the nitrone derived from N,N-di(hydrogenated tallow)hydroxylamine.

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- 10. The composition of claim 1 wherein the amine oxide is a trialkyl amine oxide.
- 11. The composition of claim 1 wherein the amine oxide is tri(C₁₂-C₁₄) amine oxide.
- 12. The composition of claim 1 wherein the amine oxide is $di(C_{12}-C_{14})$ methyl amine oxide.
 - 13. The composition of claim 1 wherein the amine oxide is tri(C₁₆-C₁₈) amine oxide.
- 14. The composition of claim 1 wherein the antioxidant is present in an amount of from about 0.005% by weight to about 5% by weight, based on the weight of the edible organic substance.
- 15. The composition of claim 1 wherein the antioxidant is present in an amount of from about 0.01% by weight to about 1% by weight, based on the weight of the edible organic substance.
- 16. The composition of claim 1 wherein the composition further comprises additional food additives selected from food antioxidants in addition to those specified in claim 1, emulsifiers, suspension agent and colorings.
- 17. The composition of claim 1 wherein the composition further comprises food antioxidants selected from the group consisting of butylated hydroxytoluene, butylated hydroxyanisole, tocopherol, ascorbic acid, benzylphosphonates, esters of b-(3,5-di-tert-butyl-4-hydroxyphenyl)propionic acid with mono- or polyhydric alcohols, esters of b-(5-tert-butyl-4-hydroxyghenyl)propionic acid with mono- or polyhydric alcohols, esters of b-(3,5-dicyclohexyl-4-hydroxyphenyl)propionic acid with mono- or polyhydric alcohols, esters of 3,5-di-tert-butyl-4-hydroxyphenyl acetic acid with mono- or polyhydric alcohols, phosphites and phosphonites.

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- 18. The composition of claim 1 wherein the antioxidant is one or more compounds selected from the group consisting of
- i.) an N,N-di(alkyl)hydroxylamine produced by the direct oxidation of N,N-di(hydrogenated tallow)amine,
 - ii.) O-allyl-N,N-dioctadecylhydroxylamine,
 - iii.) N-octadecyl-a-heptadecylnitrone, and
 - iv.) a di(C₁₆-C₁₈)alkyl methyl amine oxide.
- 19. The composition of claim 1 wherein the edible organic substance is a food10 containing fatty acid glycerides, edible fats and fatty oils.
 - 20. The composition of claim 1 wherein the edible organic substance is a pet food or animal feed.

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